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Thirty-ninth session
7 June–2 July 1999
Item 4 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Programme questions: programme planning

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997 (A/53/122), it was noted that 57 outputs, consisting mainly of published materials, had been further postponed, and that the continuing relevancy of those outputs under a new medium-term plan in the context of the 1998–1999 programme was questionable. In the absence of further justifications warranting their continuation, it was recommended that they be terminated.

2. In that connection, in paragraph 19 of section V of General Assembly resolution 53/207 on programme planning, which pertains to that report, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide information on the reasons for the further postponement of the delivery of outputs to the biennium 1998–1999 and the opinion of relevant intergovernmental bodies on the proposal by the Secretary-General to delete 57 outputs carried over from the biennium 1994–1995, for consideration at its current session.

3. At the first resumed fifty-third session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee considered a note by the Secretariat on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997 (A/C.5/53/CRP.1/Rev.1) and recommended to the Assembly to transmit that note to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for consideration at its thirty-ninth session. The Assembly approved that recommendation in its decision 53/469 of 7 April 1999.

4. The information requested, as received from the departments concerned, is provided in the annex below. It will be noted that of the 57 outputs, 14 outputs have been implemented in 1997–1998; 12 outputs will be implemented in 1999; 2 outputs have been further

* E/AC.51/1999/1.

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postponed to 2000. There are 20 outputs that are considered ongoing in accordance with legislative mandates. Of these, six are pending decisions by intergovernmental mechanisms. Nine outputs have been recommended for termination by the departments/offices concerned and relevant explanations are provided under each item in the annex.

Abbreviations

TECM	Technical material
REPT	Reports to intergovernmental bodies; excludes reports issued as technical and sales publications
NRPB	Non-recurrent publications
BKLT	Booklets and pamphlets
RPUB	Recurrent publications
OTHI	Other information materials and services
MEET	Substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, including support of negotiations; excludes expert group meetings

Annex

List of outputs carried over from the biennium 1994–1995 and recommended for termination

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***03. Political Affairs***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Security Council and General Assembly Affairs***
Subprogramme: ***Security Council Affairs***

Category: ***Parliamentary services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
REPT	SG'S REPTS TO SEC. COUNCIL & GA RE LEGISLATIVE DE	2	This is an ongoing activity which should not have been listed as postponed in the original submission	

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	PREP STUDIES FR REPERTOIRE OF PRACTICE OF SEC COUN	1	)The output for the relevant sections of the Repertory of)Practice of the United Nations was not produced due to lack	Interdepartmental efforts are presently being conducted and have been reflected in a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (doc. A/53/386) The General Assembly by its resolution 53/106 (operative paragraph 5), took note, inter alia, of the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report A/53/386, (paragraph 32 (f)) that the "Repertory-related tasks will be included as distinct activities within relevant sections of future programme budgets of the Organization, starting with the biennium 2000-2001."
RPUB	PREP OF STUDIES FR REPERTORY OF PRACTICE OF UN ORG	1	)of resources	

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***03. Political Affairs***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Security Council and General Assembly Affairs***
Subprogramme: ***General Assembly affairs***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	PREP RELEVANT SECTNS OF REPERTORY OF PRACTICE OF U	1	The output for the relevant sections of the Repertory of Practice of the United Nations was not produced due to lack of resources.	Interdepartmental efforts are presently being conducted and have been reflected in a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (doc. A/53/386). The General Assembly by its resolution 53/106 (operative paragraph 5), took note, inter alia, of the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report A/53/386, (paragraph 32 (f)) that the "Repertory-related tasks will be included as distinct activities within relevant sections of future programme budgets of the Organization, starting with the biennium 2000-2001."

Category: ***Information materials & services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
OTHI	MNTENACE REF SYS ON SUBSID ORGANS OF GA & MNTENACE	1	This is an ongoing activity which should not have been listed as postponed in the original submission.	

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***03. Political Affairs***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Trusteeship and decolonization***
Subprogramme: ***Trusteeship and decolonization***

Category: ***Parliamentary services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
REPT	TRIEANNL RPT SG TO GA RE INTL DEC.ERAD.OF COLONY	1	This report has been postponed due largely to the major restructuring of the secretariat unit responsible for the decolonization programme, which was carried out between 1991-1995 and again in 1997.	Subject to further consultations with the Special Committee of 24, the Decolonization Unit of DPA, which was established only on 1 January 1998, intends to prepare an interim report during 1999 and a full report during the biennium 2000-2001.
REPT	SUG.FRM DELIB OF UN & SPL.AGC ON IMPL PLN F'ACTION	1	This report should have been consolidated as one report with above "Triennial report of the SG to the GA on the International Decade for Eradication of Colonies"	
REPT	ANNL REPT SG TO GA ON COOP & COORD OF/SPL.AGC	2		Implemented and issued as A/AC.109/L.1824 and A/AC.109/L.1838
MEET	SUBS.SRVING OF REG & SPL VISTING MISS OF CNCL TE	1	Owing to the fact that the Trusteeship Council has not met to consider substantive issues since 1994 and that no invitations have been extended by the Administering Powers.	Current situation remains the same at the present time.
MEET	SUBS SRVCIN VISITN MISS OF SPL CTTEE TO NON-SELFGO	4	Owing to the fact that the Trusteeship Council has not met to consider substantive issues since 1994 and that no invitations have been extended by the Administering Powers.	Current situation remains the same at the present time.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***03. Political Affairs***
Location: ***Vienna***
Programme: ***Outer space affairs***
Subprogramme: ***Outer space affairs***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	UPDATED DIRECTORIES RELATING TO SPACE ACTIVITIES	2	The delivery of the output was postponed in order to disseminate most updated information on the subject at a date closer to the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), to be convened from 19 to 30 July 1999, and in time for its regional preparatory conferences which were held in 1998.	Delivered in January 1998 as an updated directory on "Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications", contained in document A/AC.105/671. Programmatic change to the delivery of the output. In view of the rapid developments in the information systems in the past few years and the need to update such directory on a more frequent basis, information on the subject would now be disseminated through the Home Page of the Office, rather than as a recurrent publication.

Biennium: **94-95**
Section: ***07. Legal Activities***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***UN Administrative Tribunal and its Secretariat***
Subprogramme: ***United Nations Administrative Tribunal (including its secretariat)***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	JUDGEMNTS OF THE ADM. TRIBUNAL VOL. X & XI, E & F	4	The increase in work of the office and its limited resources.	French edition of Vol. X was published in December 1998; proofs of English version to be submitted to the Tribunal's secretariat by end March 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***07. Legal Activities***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***International Law***
Subprogramme: ***Overall direction, management & coordination of legal advice & services to the UN as a whole***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	REPERTORY O'PRACTIC OF UN ORGANS SUPLMT #5 (VOL. IV)	1	)The General Assembly has in recent years)reiterated its interest in that the Repertory be brought up to date)(GA resolutions 52/161 (para. 5) and 53/106 (para. 5).)	Interdepartmental efforts are presently being conducted and have been reflected in a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (doc. A/53/386) note of which was taken by the Assembly (resolution 53/106, para. 5). The Repertory volumes are covered by the report and cannot be discontinued.
RPUB	REPERTORY O'PRACTIC OF UN ORGANS SUPLMT #6 (VOL. I)	1		
RPUB	REPERTORY O'PRACTIC OF UN ORGANS SUPLMT #6 (VOL. IV & V)	2		

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***07. Legal Activities***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***International Law***
Subprogramme: ***Progressive development & codification of international law***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	LEGISLATIVE SERIES (VOL. 22 & 23/PERIODIC)	2	Volumes 22 and 23 of the Legislative Series are reserved for "a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, based on information received from Member States". This compendium has been requested in paragraph 10(b) of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60.	The amount of information submitted so far by Member States has not yet enabled the Codification Division to produce the volumes but the request from the General Assembly remains very much in force, and has recently been recalled (General Assembly resolution 53/108). Consequently, those volumes cannot be discontinued.
RPUB	UN REPTS OF INTL ARBITRAL AWARDS (VOL XXI) PERIODI	1		Issued in 1997. Sales number E/F 95.V.2

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***07. Legal Activities***
Location: ***Vienna***
Programme: ***International Law***
Subprogramme: ***Progressive harmonization unification of the law of international trade***

Category: ***Parliamentary services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
REPT	TO UNCITRAL ON COORD OF ACTIVITIES OF INTL.ORG (ANNL	2	Due to lack of resources.	Postponed to 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***08. Department for Policy Coordination & Sustainable Development***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Economic and social council affairs and programme***
Subprogramme: ***Inter-organizational cooperation***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	FIFTH EDITION OF MACROTHESAURUS	1	The Macrothesaurus for Information Processing in the Field of Economic and Social Development is a joint publication of the United Nations and the OECD. Its maintenance was undertaken by a Secretariat located at the OECD Development Centre and guided by the Macrothesaurus Advisory Committee composed of representatives from the United Nations, OECD and IDRC (Canada). DESA, as a member of the Macrothesaurus Advisory and Technical Committees acts as a focal point for the UN system. Data collected throughout the network of Macrothesaurus users for the fifth edition was analyzed and approved for the inclusion by the Macrothesaurus Technical Committee in June 1996. However, for reasons beyond their control, the Advisory Committee did not meet during 1997 to give final approval for printing the fifth edition.	Delays in the actual printing of the publication were experienced within OECD, necessitating further postponement of the completion of the output to the 1998-1999 biennium. The fifth edition of the Macrothesaurus (ISBN 92-64-16025-6) was finally published in March 1998.

Biennium: ***94-95***

Section: ***08. Department for Policy Coordination & Sustainable Development***

Location: ***Headquarters***

Programme: ***Global social issues and policies***

Subprogramme: ***Social policy design, planning and coordination***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
TECM	OPERATN OF SOC WELFARE DATABASE & CLEARING HSE FACIL	1		Activity to be terminated. In essence, this activity has been overtaken by and integrated into the work related to the Social Summit and its related follow-up activities, as per revised work programme approved by relevant intergovernmental body.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***09. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Statistics***
Subprogramme: ***Applying advanced technology in collecting, processing & disseminating integrated statistics***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	INTL. DISABILITY STATISTICS DATABSE (VERSION III)	1	Lack of resources.	Reconfigured to present data on a website in 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***09. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Statistics***
Subprogramme: ***Developing statistical concepts & methods for use by Member States***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	CENSUS METHODS FOR DISABILITY STATISTICS	1	Lack of resources.	To be implemented in 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***10. Department for development Support and Management Services***
Location: ***Headquarters***
Programme: ***Natural resources and planning and management***
Subprogramme: ***Surveying, mapping & international cooperation in cartography***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
TECM	TECHNICAL PAPERS ON THE 5TH UN CARTO.CONF. FOR AMERICAS	1		Terminated because the technical papers were not required for the meeting.
TECM	TECH. PAPERS OF THE 13TH CARTO.CONF. ASIA & PACIFIC	1		Terminated because the technical papers were not required for the meeting.

Biennium: ***94-95***

Section: ***11A. United Nations Conference on Trade & Development***

Location: ***Geneva***

Programme: ***International trade***

Subprogramme: ***Economic cooperation among developing countries***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
TECM	STUDY MEASURE ENABLIN PARTICIP OF ENTERPRIS SECTOR	1		Department has recommended termination of this output in accordance with revised work programme approved by UNCTAD Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***11A. United Nations Conference on Trade & Development***
Location: ***Geneva***
Programme: ***Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries***
Subprogramme: ***Land-locked & island developing countries & special programmes***

Category: ***Parliamentary services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
REPT	SUSTAINABLE DEV OF ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	1		This report is planned for 1999 as a reformulated output. It will be either a non-recurrent publication or a background document on small island developing States, instead of island developing countries, and rather focused on the issue of their vulnerability than broadly on their sustainable development. The work is now well advanced.

Biennium: ***94-95***

Section: ***11A. United Nations Conference on Trade & Development***

Location: ***Geneva***

Programme: ***Transnational corporations***

Subprogramme: ***Securing effective international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	ANALY BILAT TREATIES RELAT TO TRANSNATL CORPS	1		"Bilateral Investment Treaties in the mid-1990s" issued in 1998 as a UN sales publication as E.98.II.D.8

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***11B. International Trade Centre***
Location: ***Geneva***
Programme: ***Trade expansion***
Subprogramme: ***Product & market research, development & promotion***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1996-1999	Current Status
TECM	AUTO SPARE PARTS/COMPONENTS IN SELECT DEV COUNTRY	1	Further postponed on the grounds that such an item would have complemented ITC advisory activities in the sector.	Terminated as of end 1998 due to "Resource constraints" - "Shortage in XB funding".

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***12A. United Nations Environment Programme***
Location: ***Nairobi***
Programme: ***Environment***
Subprogramme: ***Environmental management of freshwater resources***

Category: ***Information materials & services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
BKLT	ASPECTS OF INTEGRATED LAKE MANAGEMENT	1		Volume 7-Biomanipulation in Lakes & Reservoirs Mgt. Implemented in 1998.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***12A. United Nations Environment Programme***
Location: ***Nairobi***
Programme: ***Environment***
Subprogramme: ***Environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	10 PESTICIDES DATASHEETS & 2 MONOGRAPHS ON PESTCDS	2		2 Monographs on Demeton-S-Methyl and Diazinon. Implemented in 1998. An advisory or expert group will review the draft of this monograph and it will be published during 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***12A. United Nations Environment Programme***
Location: ***Nairobi***
Programme: ***Environment***
Subprogramme: ***Environmental health, human settlements and welfare***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	CRITICAL REVIEWS/MONOGRAPHS/RISK ASSESSMENT METHOD	1		An advisory or expert group will review the draft of this monograph and it will be published during 1999.

Biennium: ***94-95***
Section: ***13. Crime Control***
Location: ***Vienna***
Programme: ***Social development and humanitarian affairs***
Subprogramme: ***Crime prevention & criminal justice management***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1996-1999	Current Status
TECM	6th SURVEY	1	Delay in carrying out the 5th Survey; since the survey is a recurrent activity, the 6th Survey was postponed to a certain period of time so that the exercise is relevant.	The questionnaire will be finalized and dispatched to respondents in 1999. The 6th Survey will be completed during the biennium 2000-2001.

Biennium **94-95**
Section **14. *International Drug Control***
Location ***Vienna***
Programme ***International Drug Control***
Subprogramme ***External relations, inter-organized cooperation & information***

Category ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	UPDATE DIGEST LIST NATL FOCAL PTS CONC VAR ASPECTS	1		Terminated because it has lost its programmatic relevance. Due to further specialization of drug control issues, the digest listings of national focal points for general public does not correspond any more to requirements of national authorities and general public. Cleared by International Narcotics Control Board.
NRPB	UPDATE BROCHURE UN & DRUG ABUSE CONTROL	1	The main reason for the delay is that such a brochure should take into account the outcome and follow-up to the 20th special session of the General Assembly held in June 1998. The brochure has not lost its programmatic relevancy.	Will be delivered by end 1999.

Biennium: 94-95
Section: 16. Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Location: Bangkok
Programme: Environment
Subprogramme: Environment and sustainable development

Category: Published material

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	ENVI & DEV: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEV STRATEGES	1	During the biennium 1996-1997, activities were undertaken to conduct country studies in selected least developed countries in the ESCAP region. Delays in completing some country studies occurred owing to difficulty in identifying well-qualified country researchers. Bilateral donor further delayed the organization of project activities directly related to the completion of this publication.	A camera-ready manuscript is ready and the printing and dissemination is expected to be completed in April 1999. Copies are intended for distribution to: (a) government officials in ministries of agriculture/rural development in the region; (b) central planning agencies in the region; and (c) national research institutes concerned with agricultural and rural development within and outside the region.

Biennium: **94-95**
Section: ***17. Economic Commission for Europe***
Location: ***Geneva***
Programme: ***Environment***
Subprogramme: ***Environment***

Category: ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	SECOND STEP OF THE NOX PROTOCOL	1	) The Protocols are related to the Convention on Long-range) Transboundary Air Pollution whose Executive Body makes	Under negotiation - publication to be released in 2000.
NRPB	HEAVY METALS PROTOCOL	1	) the negotiations, normally at its annual sessions. Progress is) dependent on scientific, technical and economic background	Protocol adopted in 1998; publication to be released in 1999.
NRPB	PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS PROTOCOL	1	) and the degree of willingness of Governments to yield and) compromise so as to reach consensus.	Protocol adopted in 1998; publication to be released in 1999.

Biennium: 94-95
Section: 17. Economic Commission for Europe
Location: Geneva
Programme: Industrial development
Subprogramme: Industrial and technology

Category: Published material

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTION SITES	1	Shortages of resources, both human and financial	While the project relating to the publication is still ongoing, there is a lack of interest among Member States of the Commission to have this publication produced at this time. It is therefore proposed that this output be terminated

Biennium *94-95*
Section *21. Human rights*
Location *Geneva*
Programme *Promotion and protection of human rights*
Subprogramme *Elimination & prevention of discrimination & protection of minorities and vulnerable groups*

Category *Published material*

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
NRPB	RECOMMEND EFFECT DISCRIM IN EDUC MINORITY CHILDREN	1	Unavailability of resources in 1998-1997	Department recommends termination of outputs. May be reformulated, subject to availability of resources in future.

Biennium **96-97**
Section ***21. Human rights***
Location ***Geneva***
Programme ***Promotion and protection of human rights***
Subprogramme ***Research, studies & standard setting***

Category ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
TECM	RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION	1	Unavailability of resources in 1998-1997	Relevant intergovernmental body informed.

Biennium **94-95**
Section ***24. Public Information***
Location ***Headquarters***
Programme ***Public Information***
Subprogramme ***Promotional services***

Category ***Information materials and services***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
OTHI	ORG OF REGIONAL ENCOUNTR OF THE QUESTN OF PALESTIN	1		"Prospects for Peace", a regional seminar for journalists on the question of Palestine, was convened in New Delhi, India, 3-4 February 1998. Distinguished analysts from the Palestinian Authority, Israel, neighbouring countries and the United States made presentations followed by an exchange of views with representatives of prominent media organizations from Asia

Biennium **94-95**
Section ***24. Public information***
Location ***Headquarters***
Programme ***Public information***
Subprogramme ***Library and publications services***

Category ***Published material***

Major Category	Output Citation	No. Post	Reasons for Postponement to 1998-1999	Current Status
RPUB	INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS OF ECOSOC (1994 & 1995)	1		ST/LIB/SER B E 72, "Index to Proceedings of the Economic and Social Council" (1995) completed in June 1996 in English: 1,680 copies
NRPB	UNBIS REF MANUAL FBIBLGPHC DESCRIP 3RD EDIT (94)	1		UNBIS Reference manual for bibliographic Description Data Dictionary and Search Guide, third edition (1994), was reformulated in biennium 1996-1997 to reflect electronically new data structure of ILMS. The manual has been continuously updated electronically since January 1997.